WORLD HORSE IDENTIFICATION, REGISTRATION & DATA EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the working-meeting

Sevilla (Spain), 27th of October 2011

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Page 1 / 20

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Participants:

John Shenfield	British Hannoverian Society (UK)
Chris Gould	Canadian Warmblood (Canada)
Rudi Eerdekens	BWP (Belgium)
Carine Luys	VCP (Belgium)
Emma Thoren	Swedish Warmblood (Sweden)
Jean Pierre Devos	Confédération Belge du Cheval (Belgium)
Carlos Ferreira	Alter Real (Portugal)
Billy Smith	AQHA (USA)
Marc Pierson	SBS (Belgium)
Arancha Rodriguez	ANCCE (Spain)
Ana Mª Catalán Alcalá	MARM (Spain)
Nick Wallbridge	NED (UK)
Caroline Teyssier	IFCE (France)
Xavier Guibert	IFCE (France)
Bérengère Lacroix	IFCE (France)
Daniel Taysse	IFCE (France)
Alban Ferignac	IFCE (France)

I. Welcoming of the participants

The WHIRDEC meeting took place in Sevilla, the 27th of October, the day after the WBFSH GA. The meeting was from 9am to 1pm.
Agenda of the meeting :

- Welcome and presentation

- UELN remind and status
  - EU situation
  - US and CAN situation
  -
- data exchange project : Stud book, central databases,
  - demo of data exchanges
  - demo of hub management

- Data exchange project : National federations, FEI

- horse identification in the countries (Europe, USA, CAN..)
  - New methods
  - Problems
  -
- Problems in applying the european rules

- Next projects :
  - Link between microchip and identification database ?

II. Introduction

At the WBFSH GA, a first demo to the WBFSH members showed real **data exchanges** between 2 databases : New Caledonian database and French database and also between BWP database and French database.

It was also the opportunity to show the principle of the **hub management** : each database manager has the possibility to authorize or not the access to its own database by others.

It was very important for the UELN/HDE team to present to the WHIRDEC members the works done since July on this project which is mainly financed by the WBFSH.

The WHIRDEC session was productive thanks to the work done since July, the interest and the diversity of the participants.

It is always very interesting to have various points of views and participants from overseas.

III. Presentation of participants

Each participant presented him/herself and some specificity about each country organisation.

In UK : there is a central database, the NED, but there are some funding difficulties for the database management at the moment and the government does not really say which direction they will choose. There are more than 80 PIOs in UK, and in a first time the ministry of Agriculture would have liked NED to issue passports for them, but changed their mind, and know it seems that there are some confusions between the government, NED (National Equine Database) and the different breed's associations.

In Belgium : there are breeding databases, regional databases and a central database, all core data are passed to the central database.

In Sweden : there is no central database, only breeding databases.

In Spain : there is a central database, there is one database per region which issues passports for horses without pedigree, and there are breeding databases (as ANCCE).

The registration of horses' movements starts to be registered in the central database too.

In Portugal : there is one central database as in France for all pedigree horses;

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Page 3 / 20

In Canada : Breeding associations and one central database which registers all horses information, even movements of horses.

In USA : There is no horse identification compulsory in USA. AQHA issues only certificates of registration, but no passports. The UELN is adopted as a principle, but it seems to be confused with the microchip number.

IV. UELN remind and issues in countries

16 new UELN codes in 2011 (3 out of Europe)

Now, we have 762 UELN codes for databases in the UELN database

The UELN code is the address of the database which registers the horse at birth; the UELN code is not necessarily linked to a stud book. It is only linked to a PIO database.

The UELN code is the address of the database which registers and delivers the passport of the horse for the first time.

- In some specific cases, several UELN codes may be linked to the same database, as long as the 'address' behind is the same for all these UELN codes.
- But the general rule is 1 UELN code, 1 database, 1 address.
- UELN is composed by a UELN code :
  - 6 first **numeric digits** : ISO code of the country of the database (3 numeric digits) + numeric code of the database in this country ; this code is given by the ueln website (or confirmed by this website in the European Union, following the request of a EU government)

+

  - 9 alpha-numeric digits: horse number in the database system; according to your organisation

Example :

12300100987654A

- UELN of the horse 1 number for all its life 15 characters (**no blank, no dot... only numbers and letters**)

Problem when the UELN is compulsory for the database management and when the horse has no UELN and/or when its UELN is not known : the best way is to put 999999 in front which means we don't know the UELN code.

Sometimes (in Sweden for example) an UELN has been given to ancestry in pedigree, without knowing anything about the horse (foreign horse) → it should be better to put nothing or 999999

In Spain, the central database doesn't issue passports, but they are interested to exchange data

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Page 4 / 20

There is still problem for some horses imported without passport or without UELN on the existing passport (issued before ueln adoption by the PIO)

Question about the situation of PRE in Italy: the Italian government does not want to give detail about PRE horses born in Italy, and they register PRE as Italian Sport horses with UELN of the Italian database. Even if the country of birth could issue the passport of the horse, it should agree to pass information to the stud book of origin and apply the rules of the stud book of origin when it is an international stud book as PRE.

In Canada, breeding associations are working independently about the UELN use for now. Equine Canada wishes to give an UELN for all Canadian horses for 2013.Government is working on a central database about horse traceability
Registration is based on UELN, but they don't automatically produce a passport→ to export, there is a possibility to print a certificate
For identification, Canadian try to work with new technologies : ink tatoo, eye scan, not necessarily microchip (problem with microchip is that a part of the meat can't be 'used').

V. Data exchange demo

The data exchange demo presented different cases :
From the French database to the New Caledonian database → horse and pedigree
From the New Caledonian database to the French database → horse
From the French database to the BWP database → horse
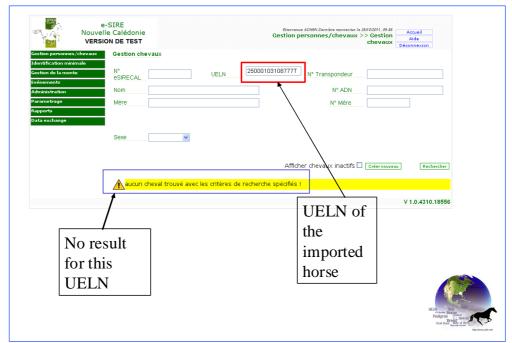From the French database to the SBS database → horse

Data exchanges are only based on the UELN which is the only reliable value. This is the main principle of the project. UELN is the key to know where the original and true data are.

The demo shows how data received from another database can be inserted in your database. The hub part is totally unseen for the user. It is up to the IT team to process data in order to help the user to modify these data on a friendly screen rather than a XML file.

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Page 5 / 20

Minutes of the work-meeting
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Screenshots of the demo From the French database to the New Caledonian database → horse and pedigree

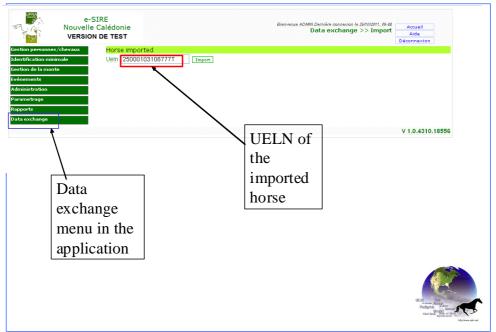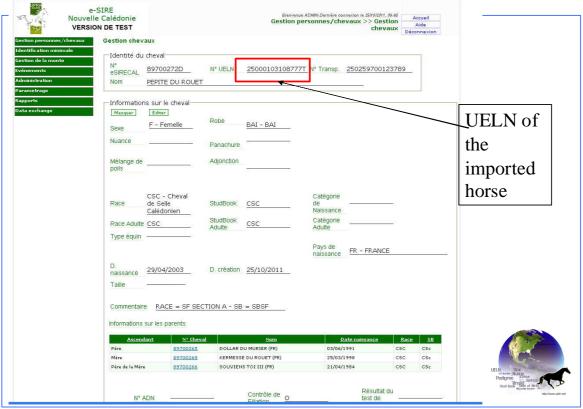## 1/ Search the horse in the database : result → the horse does not exist

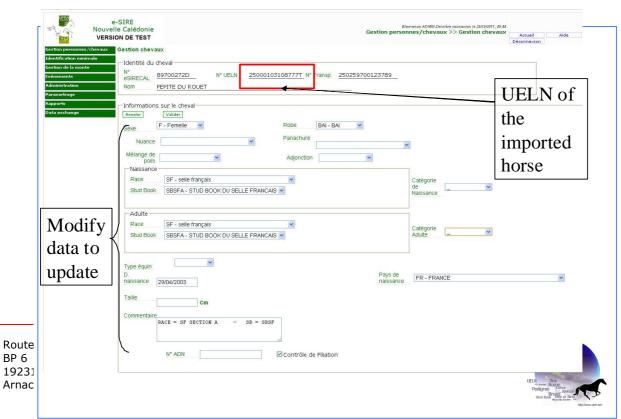2/ On the data exchange screen (works through the hub) ; type the UELN of the horse, and click on import.

10

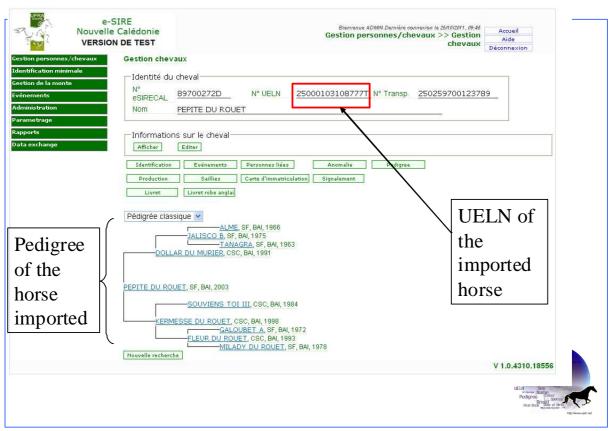3/ I check on my horse screen, the horse exists now :

12

4/ according to the database management, I am able to modify/update some data :

5/ because the pedigree webservice is developed and authorized to be used by the French database, the New Caledonian database imported also the pedigree of the horse in its database :
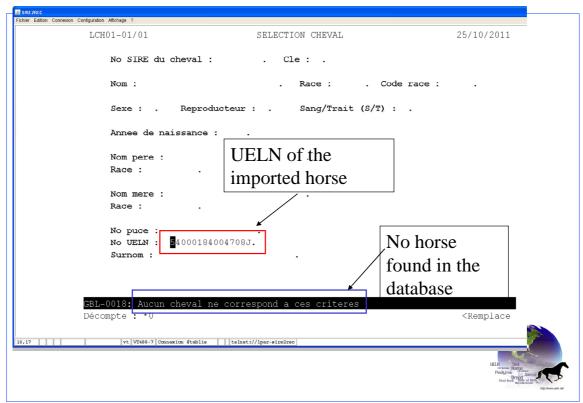

16

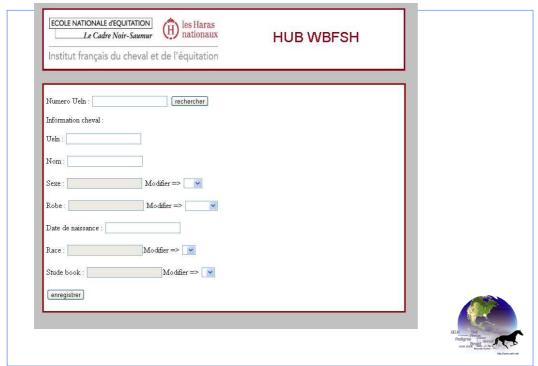Screenshot of the demo From the New Caledonian database to the French database → horse

1/ Looking for the horse in the French database

18

2/ Goes to the screen developed for data exchange

20

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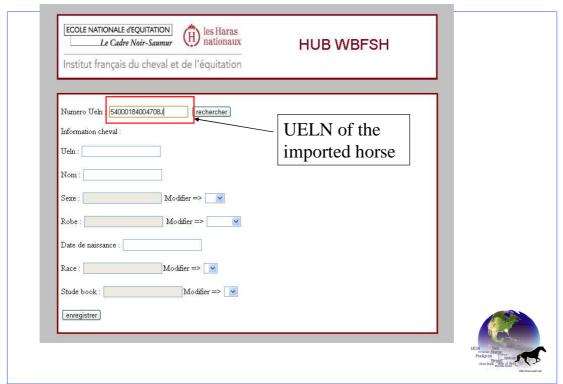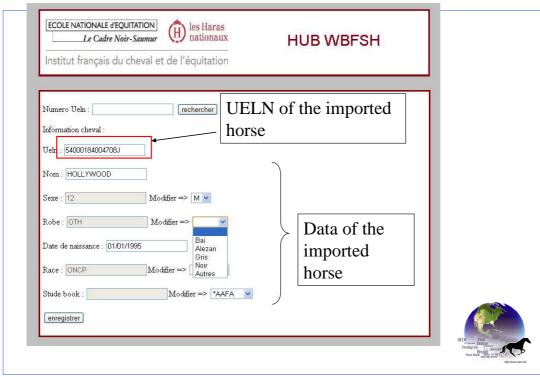contact@ueln.net
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Page 10 / 20
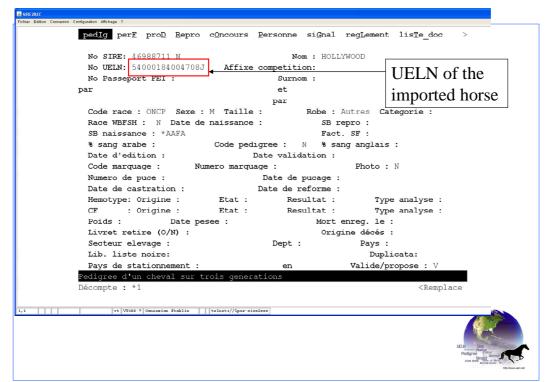
3/ Type in the UELN number and search the horse

22

4/ Check and modify some data about the horse to be coherent with the French database codes

24

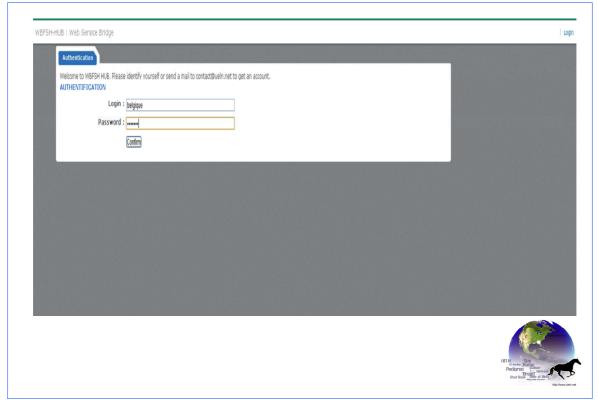## 5/ Validate and insert the horse into the French database

28

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Page 12 / 20

VI.   **Hub demo**

Through the hub administration, each database manager would get the possibility to authorize or not the access to others, webservice per webservice. Thanks to this interface, it would also be possible to check where your database is authorized to access.

First of all, to access this interface, you need to require a login and password to the UELN webmaster (contact@ueln.net).
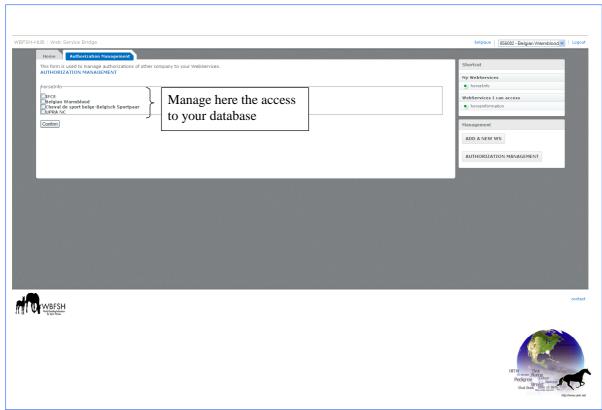
1/ connection to the hub: login/password

32

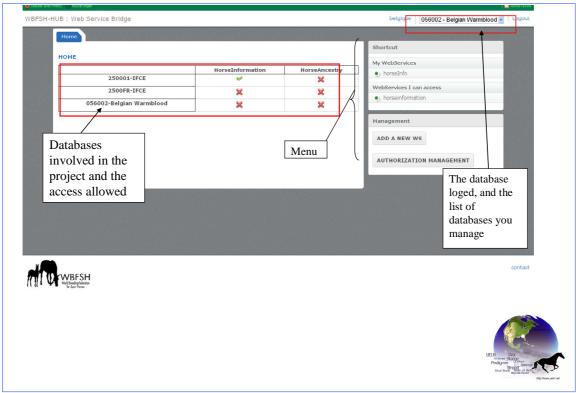2/ Manage access to your database on the menu : Authorization management

WBFSH-HUB : Web Service Bridge

belgique | 056002 - Belgian Warmblood ▼ | Logout

Home | **Authorization Management**

This form is used to manage authorizations of other company to your WebServices.
AUTHORIZATION MANAGEMENT

horseInfo
☐ IFCE
☐ Belgian Warmblood
☐ Cheval de sport belge-Belgisch Sportpaar
☐ IJPRA NC

Confirm

Manage here the access
to your database

Shortcut

My WebServices
● horseInfo

WebServices I can access
● horseinformation

Management

ADD A NEW WS

AUTHORIZATION MANAGEMENT

WBFSH

contact

34

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Page 14 / 20

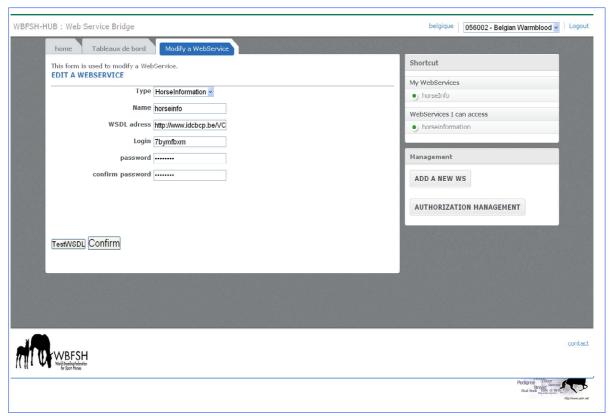## 3/ Check databases where you are authorized to access (home page)

35

To request for an access, please contact the UELN webmaster (contact@ueln.net) which will send the demand to the appropriate interlocutor.
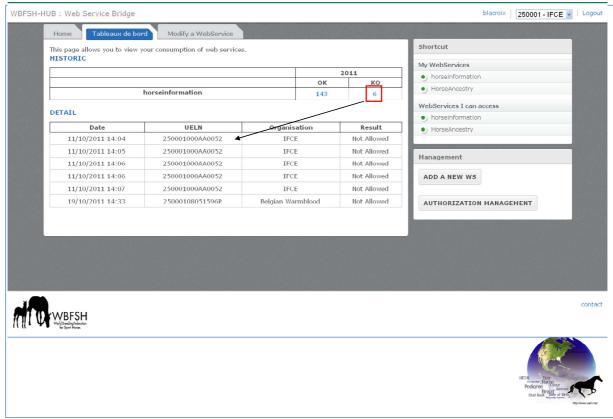
4/ On the menu "My Webservices", you can test the WSDL address of the webservice, the login/password of this webservice, you also have access to dashboards (Tableaux de bord) to check the history and results of connections to your database

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Page 15 / 20

36

On the history, you have the date/hour of connection, the UELN of the horse research, the organisation which looked at the horse, and the result : OK, KO, not allowed, horse not found…

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Page 16 / 20

38

VII. Data exchange issues

Each IT team would be in charge with stud book/database managers, of the way to insert data, which data can be modified or not, when the data can be inserted or not.

Each database would have to work on a 'dictionary' to construe the signification of some horse information as breed or stud book for example. The best would be to get reference tables, but it will not be possible for all data.

It would be interesting to envisage a way to know when a data has been updated.

For the moment, horse information and pedigree webservices have been developed.

It is possible to develop a webservice only for "core data" (according to 504/2008 European regulation), which can be used by central databases in Europe.

More webservices can be developed in the future as stallion approbation, sanitary details, DNA card, performances.

Questions :

How long does it take to get involved ?

To create the webservice to provide data : around 2 days for a developer. Working on some reference/standard to adapt the data received and create a screen to insert data.

What can I do if the horse is already in my database? Is it possible to check and research the horse?

All of this is concerning to the database administrator and how received data are managed. This is independent of the hub management.

For central databases (some do not have UELN code): We would need to find a way to facilitate data exchange between central databases for core data (separate from the others)

In UK for example, we could imagine that core data come from central database and pedigree or more specific data come from stud book databases. All of this is linked with the webservice's WSDL address.

A user guide for the hub use is written, and a technical guide intended for the computer specialists will be done to explain how to work with/through the hub.

It will be free to use the Hub for the WBFSH members. An agreement for the users of the hub will be quickly drafted. It will contain some fundamental principles which the users will make a commitment to respect as:
- Look for only the horses which we need
- Do not make excessive use of the hub
- Not to make extra benefits from data which we shall have download
- Make a commitment to put between brackets the birth country of the horse
-…

VIII. Data exchange with FEI

The new general secretary of the FEI is interested by the data exchange project, and would be agree to use the hub when a horse has to be recorded in the FEI database (a screen on the FEI software accessible to National Federations).

Concerning performances of horses, the FEI could prefer to send them to the national federations rather than directly to the stud book databases, but the discussion remains opened. The project would be presented to the FEI EC on the mid of November.

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Page 18 / 20

IX.   Horses identification in EU and overseas

Concerning the European regulation, Spanish ministry of Agriculture has some questions on the interpretation; its intention is to point out some of the problems and to ask the Commission to create a working group with all member states to discuss this issues and to find an harmonised interpretation and some procedures concerning, for instance, the obligation (or not) of registering information on successive owners/keepers on the Id. Documents and in the databases , the certification of slaughtered or dead animals between member states, the re-identification of animals when the transponders cease to work and the animal is no longer in its birth country, and so on...

About the DNA card, there are still questions about the 'ownership' of the result : the lab? the owner of the horse? the stud book into which the horse is registered ?.
In order to facilitate the exchanges, the use of the result…, it would be good that the sample/result be also the property of the stud book, but there is nothing written about it for the moment. It seems to be only an unwritten rule in the main international breeds organisations.

Horse identification in US and Canada :
In USA, they start to work with the iris scan, but for the moment, it only works on horses over 8 months. It can be a problem for foals' identification; it seems that the eye of foal change between birth and 8 months. The scan is converted in 15 digits; it has been tested by AQHA and Jockey Club, and only used by vet for the moment (more details about the technology on www.eyeD.com)
The technology is new, and there are also questions about cost.

In Canada, the horse industry is interested by RFID ink tattoo which is clear (transparent), and there is no loss for the meat when the horse goes to slaughter. At the moment, the technology works, but the company is not ready for industrialization yet.

X. Miscellaneous and next meeting

Proposal to work on a link between the microchip and and the database in which the horse micro chipping has been registered. Even if the UELN is the life number of the horse anywhere in the world, it is not 'readable' on the horse. Even if the horse has a microchip, if there is no passport, there is no way to find details about the horse. However, it means that the horse has

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been registered 'somewhere', that is why, a link between the microchip and the database of registration could be a subject to be envisaged for a next WHIRDEC meeting.

Next WHIRDEC meeting could take place in Belgium, at the beginning of 2012. Before that, works continue to involve databases in exchanges.
I would be interesting to plan the organisation of working groups on different topics at the next WHIRDEC : identification, EU law; data exchange, microchip database…

Thank you to all the participants and see you next time !